

Monday 27 June. Romans 8 verses 4-11. Life in the Spirit

Paul then tells us that Christians “do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (verse 4). We do not set our minds on what the flesh wants, “but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires” (verse 5). We are not perfect, but as we are led by the Spirit, we think and do the things of God.

Before we came to believe, our minds were headed for death. The unconverted mind “is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.” It is rebellious and disobedient. Paul concludes, “Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God” (verses 6-8).

Things to think about

- In what way does the Spirit “control” our minds? (verse 6)
- When the pain of past sin haunts you, how should you respond?

But now, we “are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ” (verse 9). The Holy Spirit lives in and guides everyone who belongs to Christ, and “the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace” (verse 6). If we don’t even *want* to live right, we do not belong to Christ (in the sense that Paul is using it here; everything belongs to Christ in another sense).

Our old bodies are dead because of sin, and they received their wages on the cross (6:2-6). In Christ, though, we have new life — “If Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness” (8:10). Because Christ is righteous, and we are in him, the Spirit gives us life.

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead [i.e., the Father] will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit, who lives in you” (verse 11). God will also raise us, if his Spirit is living in us, leading us, motivating us. Our bodies will be raised like his — immortal, incorruptible and glorious. The Holy Spirit plays an essential role in our salvation.

Song: Breathe on me breath of God

By Edwin Hatch (1878)

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love, and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life for all eternity.

Remember a promise

- The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in, and is energizing __(your name)__
(v. 11)

Prayer:

Help me, Lord, to so live by the Spirit that I may walk with the Spirit.

(Galatians 5:25)